

WATER Center
 101 E. Pawnee
 Wichita, KS 67211
 Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
 Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
 Closed Holidays
 (316) 337-9262
 Fax (316) 337-9266
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/



Water Observations

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

April - June 2007

Volume 2, Issue 2

What's Inside?

- **SUMMER PROGRAMS!**
- **Ark River Clean-up Event**
- **New Interpretive Trail Under Way**
- **Senior Wednesday**
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What's New?

WATER Center Receives Award

The WATER Center has been awarded the 2006-07 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Award in the Government Category by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education.

Nominated by its peers, the Center exhibited outstanding leadership and achievement, as well as collaboration and cooperation within the state's environmental education field.

"We appreciate the KACEE organization for recognizing our Center and staff with this prestigious award," said Wichita Environmental Services Director, Kay Johnson. "Environmental education is an important endeavor that we feel is critical to helping preserve and protect Wichita's environment and water resources."

Why Aquariums?

Fish demonstrate the life-supporting qualities of the cleaned groundwater.

What does clean water look like?

The water from our faucets comes out clear and cool. We stay healthy because our public drinking water is treated so that the bacteria, algae, and harmful elements are removed.

But the WATER Center does not create drinking water. So what does clean water look like?

Healthy water is not always clear.

Clean water – water that is healthy for rivers, lakes, and streams – supports a diverse community of plants and animals. Based on the variety and condition of the plants and animals, we can understand the health of a community.

The WATER Center Aquariums are filled with treated groundwater.

Unlike a home aquarium that re-circulates the same water through a filter system, the Center's aquariums receive a constant fresh supply of treated groundwater.

Throughout the year, many chemical tests are done on the groundwater to check the treatment system's effectiveness. But, what does clean water *look* like?

The aquarium fishes allow visitors to easily see the effects of clean water. Currently, seventeen native species are on display, with an additional eight species living in the creek.

Think that's a lot? Think again! There are at least forty-nine species of fish that inhabit the Arkansas River in Wichita!

Arkansas River Clean-Up Event

On May 5th, join in the fun as we clean up the Arkansas River. Try out a canoe or walk along the banks during this beautification event.

We need your help! Join neighbors, friends or meet someone new as we make a clean sweep along the Arkansas River. Previous clean-up events have recovered over a ton of trash from the river and its banks. Remember, "Our River is Our Responsibility."

Event Details:

Date: May 5, 2007

Time: 10 a.m. – Noon

Place: Meet on the East side of Lawrence Dumont Parking Lot

Rubber gloves and trash bags will be provided



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

~ Registration Will Close 5 Days Before the Program Date~

Participant Name: _____ Circle one: M F

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Please Check one: Over 18 years old Under 18, what age: _____

Parent/Leader Name: _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS:

#	DATE	PROGRAM	TIME	AGE	COST
#	June 8	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
#	June 19	Mud Masterpieces	9-11 AM	Ages 10-18	\$2
#	June 26	Build A Fish	10-11 AM	Ages 4-7	\$2
#	June 26	Pond Snoopers	2-4 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
#	June 29	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
#	July 12	City Safari	10-11 AM	Ages 4-7	\$2
#	July 13	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
#	July 17	Junior Biologist	1-3 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
#	July 19	Sandbar Treasures	9-11 AM	Ages 8-18	\$2
#	July 27	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
#	August 2	Magnificent Mussels	1-3 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
#	August 9	Just Add Water (And Sun)	1-3 PM	Ages 8-18	\$2

REGISTRATION COMPLETION:

Program Fee Totals _____ Make check payable to the WATER Center.

Mail Registration and Fees to: PROGRAMS, WATER Center,
 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211
 Or Fax: 316-337-9266



Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
 Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
 Closed Holidays

The WATER Center

is located in:

Herman Hill Park

Open daily sunrise to sunset
 18-hole disc golf course
 Accessible trails
 Playground equipment
 Picnic areas

Skateboarding, swimming and
 fishing are prohibited



Printed on Recycled Paper



Happenings Program Schedule

FISH FEEDINGS

Every
Monday and Friday
3:00 PM

New Trail Underway

Ten numbered posts have been installed along the WATER Center Creek Trail. Eagle Scout, Nathan Fisher, is currently designing a corresponding trail guide that will highlight the creek's plants and wildlife.

Watch for the new
Trail Guide in
Fall 2007!

Youth Events

FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of the Month
10:00 AM, Ages 2-6, Free

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

APRIL 9TH
"The Magic School Bus Wet All Over" by Joanna Cole
MAY 8TH
"Turtle Spring" by Deborah Turney Zagwyn
JUNE 12TH
"It's Mine" a fable by Leo Lionni
JULY 10TH
"Little Beaver and The Echo" by Amy MacDonald
AUGUST 14TH
"The Pig in the Pond" by Martin Waddell

YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Pre-Registration Required ~ Space is Limited

1:00 – 3:00 PM
Ages 8-15 Free

June 8th - Waterfall Repair

Water is a powerful force! Overtime, some of the waterfalls along the WATER Center creek have been washed out. Help staff rebuild the falls.
Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet

July 13th - Fountain Cleaning

Over time, algae, snails and other material builds up on the bottom of the WATER Center fountains. Help the staff drain and wash out the fountain pools.
Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.

June 29th - River Rangers

Trash along the river both blows in and flows in. Help staff pick up the litter along the Arkansas River in Herman Hill Park.
Wear STURDY shoes

July 27th - Habitat Fix-It

The logs in the creek ponds provide important shelter for fish and insects. Over time, these branches get pushed around. Help staff recreate this habitat.
Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.

Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

April

4th District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

11th Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

28th Arkansas River Coalition Annual Meeting - \$5.00 11 AM - 3 PM

May

2nd District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

9th Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

June

6th District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

13th Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

~Senior Wednesdays~

Adults 50+ ~ No Registration Required

SOMETHING'S FISHY

by Ken McCloskey
Wednesday, April 4th
1:30 – 3:00, Free

Learn about fish families and the special adaptations of these underwater creatures.

RAIN GARDENS

By Hilary Haley
Wednesday, June 6th
1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Landscape using the water that falls from the sky! Take home a plant specifically adapted to Kansas' weather.

PRESCRIPTIONS IN THE RIVER

by Rebecca Gagnon
Wednesday, May 2nd
1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

New research has found that there are prescription medications in our river waters. Learn about what has been found and what you can do to help.



Ripple Effects

"For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."
~ Sir Isaac Newton

There is something incredible about exploring a creek for creatures and other "treasures." In our urban environment, it is no longer easy to go out the back door and walk across the pasture down to the stream. The WATER Center hopes that you will take time to visit and learn (or remember) how fun it can be to turn over a mossy rock or peak under a log to discover the mystery of what lives underneath.

~ Libby and Kay D.

Summer Youth Programs

JUNE

MUD MASTERPIECES

Tuesday, June 19th, 9-11 AM
Ages 10-18, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Did you know that soil comes in many different colors? Ever thought of making a picture with mud? Here is your chance! Create a painting using a variety of Kansas' soils.

POND SNOOPERS

Tuesday, June 26th, 2-4 PM
Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Strange creatures lurk under the surface of the water. What lives under a rock? A leaf? A log? We'll build a spyglass to peak into the ponds.



BUILD A FISH

Tuesday, June 26th, 10-11 AM
Ages 4-7, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Learn about fish as we recycle common household items to create some colorful creatures.

JULY

CITY SAFARI

Thursday, July 12th, 10-11 AM
Ages 4-7, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Be an urban explorer! How do the city creatures get their water? We will make a nature journal and go on a wildlife safari in Herman Hill Park.



JUNIOR BIOLOGIST

Tuesday, July 17th, 1-3 PM
Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Collect creatures from the WATER Center Creek. What are they? Be a biologist and follow the clues to the water quality mystery.

SANDBAR TREASURES

Thursday, July 19th, 9-11 PM
Ages 8-18, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Beach-combing happens near the ocnas, but amazing tresures can be found along the Arkansas River's snadbars. (This program will be cancelled if the water level is too high.)

AUGUST

MAGNIFICENT MUSSELS

Thursday, August 2nd, 1-3 PM
Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

What are mussels? How do they eat? Do they move? Investigate this amazing creature and make a caft using mussel shells.

JUST ADD WATER (AND SUN)

Thursday, August 9th, 1-3 PM
Ages 8-18, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Water is used to create this newsletter. Using water from the creek, we will make our own paper that you can take home and make grow!

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services

"Protecting Health – Preserving the Environment"

D. Kay Johnson
Department Director

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The Arkansas River

Rivers of North America Series

Travel down the Arkansas River from the headwaters to the confluence with the Mississippi. Learn about some of the history of the river and how the Arkansas River has affected the American West.

This video was produced by Film Ideas Inc.

Did You Know?

In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.



~Lenntech Water Facts

Observations